

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

California Emergency Solutions and Housing
Program (CESH)



San Luis Obispo County
Department of Social Services
September 4, 2020

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Overview

In 2018, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill 850, creating the **California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH)** grant. This program is a one-time-only, limited-term formula grant allocated to the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care by the State of California's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH). The intention of this grant is to provide aid to people experiencing, or at-risk of experiencing, homelessness. This grant is also intended to benefit Continuum of Care service areas. The State is funding eligible Administrative Entities (AEs) to provide services to those areas. The County of San Luis Obispo is the Administrative Entity for the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care (SLO CoC).

The Program

The California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH Program) is administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). CESH is funded by revenues deposited in the Building Homes and Jobs Act Trust Fund, created by Senate Bill 2 and the California Emergency Solutions Grant. CESH funding was split into two parts and awarded to Continuums of Care in two rounds: a 2018 round and a 2019 round.

The 2018 round of funding was awarded in 2019. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is for the second round of CESH funding, referred to as 2019 CESH grant. For the 2019 CESH grant, the County was awarded \$412,874, of which \$20,643 is reserved for grant administration by the County and \$392,231 of which is available for application under this Request for Proposals.

Program rules are set forth in the amended 2018 and 2019 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) published by HCD:

<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/cesh/docs/2018-&-2019-CESH-NOFAs-Amended.pdf>

Applicants should review the amended NOFA prior to submitting their applications to the County.

Eligible Activities

CESH funding may be utilized to fund a variety of activities to assist homeless persons, including operating subsidies for housing and systems support including Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or Coordinated Entry System (CES) activities. Since the CESH program uniquely allows for CES and HMIS activities, and because the CoC's Advisory body – the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) – has identified CES activities as a high priority, the SLO CoC prioritized 2018 CESH funds for CES and HMIS activities. For the 2019 round, the SLO CoC has prioritized CESH funds for CES activities and housing subsidies, either in the form of operating subsidies or flexible housing subsidies funds. The following describes these activities:

1. **Operating subsidies** in the form of 15-year capitalized operating reserves for new and existing affordable permanent housing units for homeless individuals and/or families.
2. **Flexible housing subsidy funds** for local programs that establish or support the provision of rental subsidies in permanent housing to assist homeless individuals and families. Funds used for purposes of this paragraph may support rental assistance, bridge subsidies to property owners waiting for approval from another permanent rental subsidy source, vacancy payments, or project-based rent or operating reserves.

Rental assistance provided from flexible housing subsidy funds shall not exceed 48 months for each assisted household, and rent payments shall not exceed two times the current HUD fair market rent for the local area, as determined pursuant to 24 CFR part 888.

3. **Systems support** for activities necessary to maintain a comprehensive homeless services and housing delivery system, including Coordinated Entry System (CES) data, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) reporting, and homelessness planning activities.

Amount Available for Application:

2019 CESH
Available: \$392,231
Prioritized Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated Entry and Case Management • Operating Subsidies (in the form of Capitalized Operating Reserves) • Flexible Housing Subsidies

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants shall be defined as local governments, private non-profits, or for-profit organizations that the County determines are qualified to undertake the proposed activities.

Minimum Request

The minimum amount that an organization may request is \$50,000.

OverviewMatch Requirements

There is no matching contribution requirement for activities funded with CESH funds. However, CESH Program funds may be used for the one-to-one match of federal Emergency Solutions Grant, so long as they are for the same approved activity.

For additional information on program requirements and eligible activities, please visit:

http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/cesh/docs/NOFA_CESH.pdf

Minimum Requirements to Apply

Agencies awarded funds must agree to the following requirements:

1. Any program paid for with CESH funds shall align and comply with the core components of Housing First as defined in the California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8255(b).
2. Participate in San Luis Obispo County's Coordinated Entry System, depending upon activity, and participate in the SLO CoC's HMIS program. Applicants that do not propose to operate Coordinated Entry themselves are expected to consult with the Coordinated Entry agencies and determine how the project will make or receive referrals to or from the Coordinated Entry System and include a discussion of this in Section III of the application.

Additionally, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Provide a DUNS number for all contractors and subcontractors involved in capital improvement projects.
- Demonstrate the capacities to carry out the proposed program.

Project Selection Process

Applications must be submitted to the Department of Social Services by 9am on October 27, 2020. Proposals will be reviewed by staff to ensure they meet the minimum requirements listed above and that proposed activities are eligible under the rules of the CESH program.

Proposals for CESH funds will be evaluated based on the following factors identified by the HSOC and Public Input Process, including but not limited to:

- **Organizational Capacity:** experience providing the proposed activity, staff availability, and knowledge of State and Federal grants
- **Financial Stability:** demonstrate stable budget for proposed activity, including additional sources of funding needed to complete activity as proposed
- **Sustainability:** ability to sustain successful operation of activity to benefit homeless or persons at-risk, following expiration of CESH awards
- **Impact:** the number of persons to be housed or assisted and the likelihood that such assistance will lead to permanent housing
- **Meet Systemic Needs & Aligns with Local Priorities:** address specific needs and gaps in the County and the extent to which the project aligns with local priorities
- **Collaboration with Partners:** collaboration with local jurisdictions and/or local agencies to organize and deliver proposed activity, increasing value and effectiveness of project
- **Local Support:** evidence of local jurisdiction support
- **The Extent to Which the Activity Improves County Capacity to Address Homelessness:** strengthen the County's existing homeless services network and improve County's ability to assist homeless and at-risk persons

Agreement Terms

Applicants may request a grant term of 1 to 4 years; however, the total award may not exceed the amount available to the County, regardless of the duration of the grant. All CESH grant funds must be expended by September 30, 2024, with the exception of capitalized operating subsidies, which may be held for up to 15 years.

Reporting Requirements

Applicants that are awarded CESH funds shall participate in the CoC's HMIS and provide any data upon request by the County or SLO CoC as needed to complete required reports and track the County's progress toward meeting local needs and goals regarding homelessness.

Annual reports shall be submitted for the term of the contract, up to five years. Reports will indicate financial expenditures and performance outcomes including the number of homeless persons served, number of unsheltered persons served, average length of time homeless, number of persons exiting to permanent housing, and the number of persons that return to homelessness after exiting the program or project.

Regulations

Awardees and their subrecipients must provide eligible activities in a manner consistent with the Housing First practices as described in the California Code of Regulations, title 25, section 8409, subdivision (b)(1)-(6). Subrecipients providing permanent housing shall incorporate the core components of Housing First, as provided in Section 8255, subdivision (b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Awardees and their subrecipients shall adhere to principles of non-discrimination, conflicts of interest, drug-free workplace certification, Child Support Compliance Act, Federal, State, and Local housing and building codes as applicable, and minimum State-required worker's compensation; shall maintain appropriate unemployment, disability, and liability insurance, and comply with all other State, Federal, and Local laws, rules, and regulations that pertain to construction, health, safety, labor, fair employment practices, environmental protection, equal opportunity, fair housing; and shall adhere to all other matters applicable and/or related to the CESH program and all eligible activities.

Where applicable, awardees and their subrecipients shall also be responsible for obtaining all permits, licenses, and approvals required to perform, design, operate, and maintain eligible activities.

Information Session

On September 8 a public information session will be held via Zoom for potential applicants from 3-4 p.m. Below is the log-in information for the meeting.

<https://zoom.us/j/95357652297?pwd=c25qSmtSOEtFa1Vibml1UC9RR09adz09>

Or call in: +1 669 900 9128
Meeting ID: 953 5765 2297
Passcode: 095156

Application Submission

Any group or organization wishing to apply for CESH grant funding must submit an application for an eligible project. Interested applicants may obtain a copy of the application by contacting Leon Shordon through the contact information provided below.

**Applications will be due to County staff by 9:00 a.m. on October 27, 2020.
Submit applications to Leon Shordon, Administrative Services Officer,
Department of Social Services.**

Submission Requirements:**Applications must be received by 9:00 a.m. on October 27, 2020.****Applicants may submit digital or hard copy applications to the locations below:**

1. Soft Copy – email to lshordon@co.slo.ca.us
Subject line: CESH Proposal – (Applicant Name)
2. Hard Copies – Mail or Drop-off
Attn: Leon Shordon
Department of Social Services
3433 South Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

Timeline**Public Information Session for Potential Applicants: September 8, 2020****Application due date: October 27, 2020****Questions or Need More Information?**

Contact Leon Shordon, Administrative Services Officer-
San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services at
(805) 781-1896 or lshordon@co.slo.ca.us